

What Is Claimed Is:

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1. A method for modulating the output of an optically pumped, tunable VCSEL, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

(1) optically pumping the VCSEL with a pump laser so as to cause the VCSEL to generate an output; and

(2) modulating the output light power of the pump laser so as to modulate the carrier population in the VCSEL's active region, whereby to modulate the output of the VCSEL.

2. A method for modulating the output of an optically pumped, tunable VCSEL, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

(1) optically pumping the VCSEL with a pump laser so as to cause the VCSEL to generate an output; and

(2) applying a voltage across the VCSEL's active region so as to alter the optical power circulating in

the VCSEL's cavity, whereby to increase or decrease the output power of the VCSEL.